

## ABSTRACT

A human chitinase, its recombinant production, its use for decomposing chitin, its use in therapy or prophylaxis against infection diseases

A new human chitinase having an amino acid sequence as shown in fig. 1 or fig. 2. Modified forms of it having a similar chitin-hydrolyzing activity, and antigenic peptides representing one of its epitopes. Recombinant production of the human chitinase by genetically engineered hosts or host cells. Recombinant nucleic acid encoding it, and human chitinase-specific oligonucleotides. Use for therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of humans against infection by chitin-containing pathogens, or for decomposing chitin, e.g. from chitin-based articles. Antibodies binding to the human chitinase. Diagnostic test kits comprising the human chitinase, its antigenic peptides, human chitinase antibodies, recombinant nucleic acid or oligonucleotides.

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